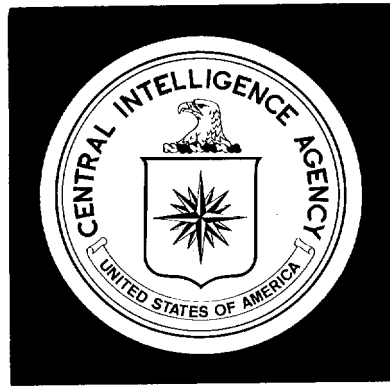


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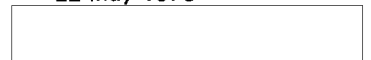
Intelligence Memorandum

*Recent Communist Logistical and Manpower
Developments in Indochina*

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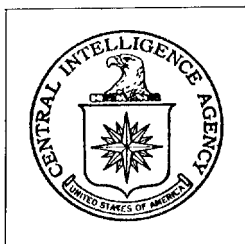
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Recent Logistical and Manpower Developments in Indochina

Communist logistical and manpower activities this past week continued to present a mixed picture. The logistical signs can be read as sustaining the buildup of military capabilities in South Vietnam and Cambodia; the manpower signs suggest that the infiltration season is now at a close -- except for South Vietnam's MR 1 -- and even there, a routine redeployment of some troops back into North Vietnam may be in progress.

Heavy logistical activity is still being observed in the North Vietnamese Panhandle and in southern Laos, despite the onset of the rainy season, which has already begun to hamper operations. Heavy vehicle activity and substantial amounts of cargo in storage continue to be detected in northern MR 1.

On the manpower side, four new combat groups destined for MR 1 began their journey south this past week. At the same time, there are indications that a regiment of the NVA 320B Division may be moving from MR 1 back to North Vietnam, possibly for purposes of resting and refitting.

Note: Comments and queries regarding this publication are welcomed. They may be directed to [redacted] of the Office of Economic Research, [redacted]

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DISCUSSION

Recent Logistical Developments*North Vietnam*

1. The transportation network in North Vietnam has been extensively refurbished since the cease-fire, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] As of early May, the road from Hanoi to Haiphong had been completely repaired, and at only one place was it necessary to cross a river on a pontoon bridge. Route 1A south of Hanoi had been completely repaired as far as Thanh Hoa, and road repair equipment was evident all along the highway. Similarly, all damaged rail bridges from Hanoi to at least Thanh Hoa had been repaired, and at each river crossing auxiliary prefabricated bridges provided bypasses.

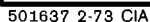
2. The delivery of weapons and ammunition into the Vinh area was again reflected in COMINT during the period. Intercepted communications disclosed that on 17 May a storage facility subordinate to Binh Tram 18, the major Communist logistic entity near Vinh, received six railroad cars containing more than 135 tons of weapons and ammunition. Almost 335 tons of ordnance have been detected there since 12 May.

3. The flow of cargo farther south is also continuing. On 15 and 16 May, intercepted communications revealed nearly 90 tons of artillery, rocket, and recoilless rifle ammunition moving through the Binh Tram 26 area, near Dong Hoi, and during the period 17-19 May the binh tram handled nearly 150 southbound cargo vehicles. Also, a recent message from the Quang Khe area indicated that a 50-ton-capacity pontoon bridge was to be constructed over the Troc River so that "technical weapons" (a probable reference to tanks, armored vehicles, or artillery pieces) could cross.

Southern Laos and Cambodia

4. Rains in southern Laos and eastern Cambodia are beginning to hinder the Communists' transportation effort. COMINT from the central Panhandle on 12 May indicated that one road was "washed out," so that vehicles were encountering difficulties. Recent photography of the central corridor -- Routes 99, 958, and 9211 -- which has been the primary north-south corridor through southern Laos, revealed standing water on the road and swollen streams that must be impeding vehicle movement.

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5. Substantial vehicle activity continues to be detected in southern Laos. COMINT on 10 May revealed that the 35th Engineer Regiment, operating south of Ban Bac, had dispatched 130 cargo vehicles south toward the tri-border area, and photography shows continuing supply deliveries via Route 966 into the southern sector of South Vietnam's MR 1.

6. In the tri-border area, logistic activity has remained very heavy despite the onset of the rainy season. A series of transportation reports issued by the 37th Engineer Regiment (the major NVA logistical element in the tri-border region) indicated that between 3 and 9 May more than 1,200 tons of cargo were moved. Photographic coverage [] did reveal a total of 67 loaded cargo trucks traveling toward South Vietnam's B-3 Front on Route 110.

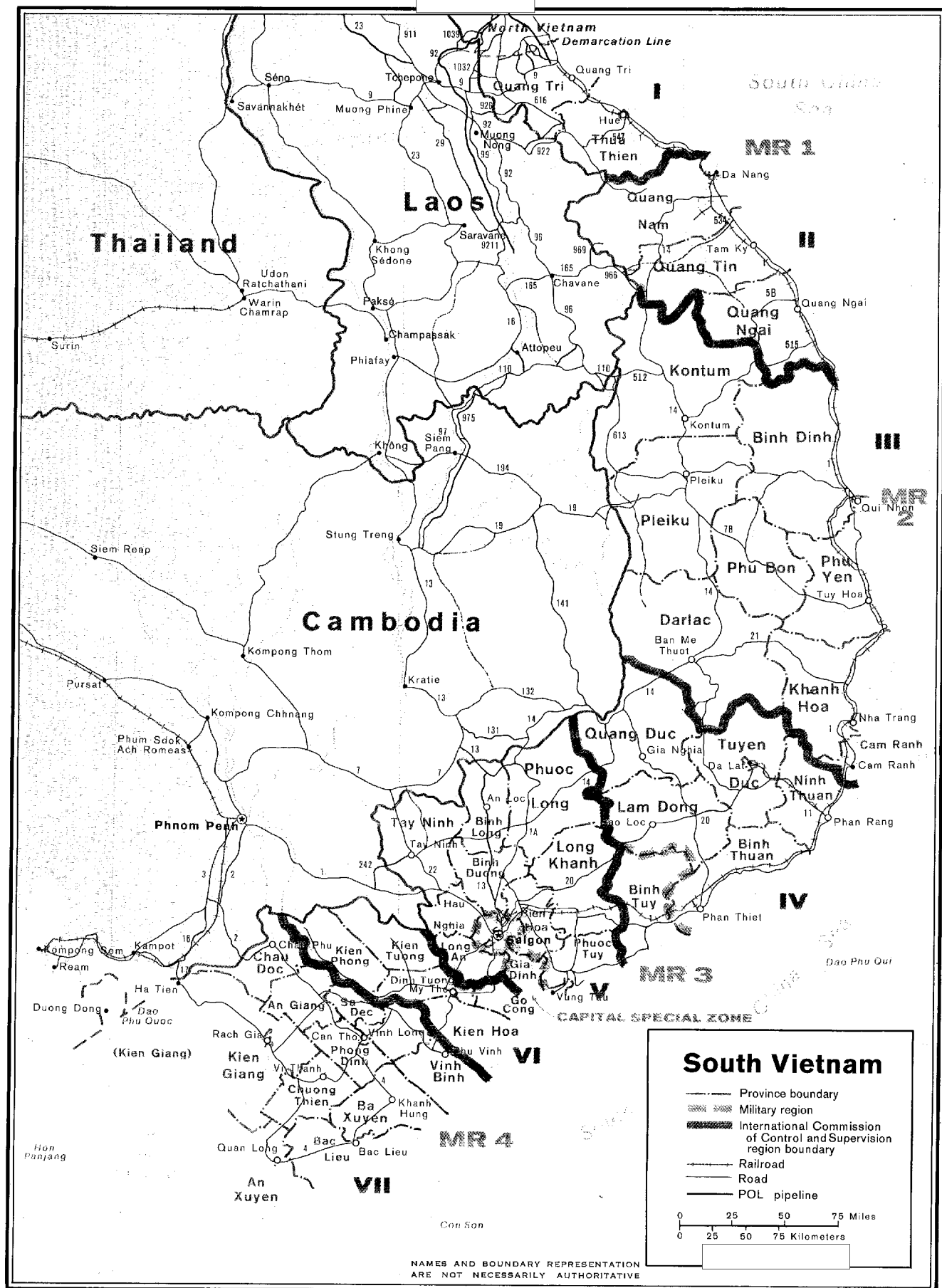
7. Little information on logistical activity in eastern Cambodia was received this past week. [] as recently as 15 April some 30 tons of weapons and ammunition were being shipped southward daily on the Mekong from Stung Treng to a supply point a few miles north of Kratie.

South Vietnam

8. Recent intercepted communications from units operating near the DMZ have confirmed the extensive movement of cargo vehicles in northern MR 1 in early May. During the period 3 through 9 May, almost 5,750 vehicles, of which half were designated as "supply vehicles," passed through two checkpoints. Conservatively, this number of supply vehicles could have distributed 500 tons of cargo daily. While some of this activity may represent new shipments from North Vietnam, it is likely that much of it consists of distribution within MR 1 from stockpiles. The precise location of the two checkpoints at which the vehicles were counted is not known, but they may be in northeastern Quang Tri Province. Similar vehicle reports from this area were intercepted during the first two weeks of March, but with numbers of vehicles roughly half those reported here.

9. The new NVA port facility at Dong Ha on the Cua Viet River in northeastern Quang Tri Province showed signs of heavy use in recent photography. Substantial numbers of watercraft, trucks, and offloaded supplies were noted in the area, as were numerous bulldozers, tractors, trailers, and generator vans.

10. Limited photographic coverage [] indicated that traffic along Route 9, the Communists' main east-west corridor in northern MR 1, continued to be heavy. [] for example, nearly 100 trucks were observed on the route. In the Khe Sanh area, photography []



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also revealed SA-2 missile-associated equipment along Route 9, and photography [] revealed continuing work on the airfield, new anti-aircraft artillery sites, and numerous support and storage buildings. More than 600 buildings, most of them new and serving logistics functions, have been identified in the extensive new complex at Khe Sanh.

11. High levels of activity have been detected in MR 1 west of Khe Sanh and adjoining areas of the Laotian Panhandle. An intercept of 9 May indicated that more than 1,800 tons of cargo, mostly munitions, had been transferred between two storage facilities in the general area. Other reports of vehicle activity included an 18 May intercept which referenced the receipt in western MR 1 of cargo vehicles carrying at least 65 tons of ordnance. These intercepts appear to substantiate [] reports that all major roads paralleling the Laotian border -- particularly those leading into and through the A Shau Valley in western Thua Thien Province -- are continuing to support heavy traffic.

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12. In southern South Vietnam, the Communists reportedly are preparing for further supply infiltration from Cambodia by building a new road leading southward along the Song Be River valley in Phuoc Long Province and into a recently enlarged supply area in northern Long Khanh Province. In northern Tay Ninh Province, 50 bulldozers reportedly arrived from North Vietnam between 10 February and 24 April for use in construction projects, including the building of an airfield. These activities may be related to a recent announcement by COSVN that newly infiltrated North Vietnamese troops are to concentrate on "establishing base areas for the weapons and ammunition which are still being sent down from the north." The COSVN orders also emphasized local purchasing and cultivation of food -- activities that are now being conducted by the Communists in many parts of South Vietnam's MRs 3 and 4.

Recent Manpower Developments

Personnel Infiltration

13. Infiltration of combat troops to South Vietnam's northern MR 1 is continuing. Four new regular infiltration groups -- 4010, 4011, 4012, and 4013 -- with a combined strength of nearly 2,300 combat troops were detected departing from Vinh during the past week. As a result, our 1972/73 infiltration estimate is increased to a total of 91,500 as shown in Table 1 below. The number of personnel who have started their journey south since the cease-fire now stands at some 22,500.

14. In addition to the regular groups noted above, one special-purpose group with a strength of about 50 specialists (see Table 2) was detected

Table 1
Infiltration Starts, by Season

Destination	1 Sep 71 - 21 May 72	1 Sep 72 - 21 May 73
Total	119,000	91,500
MR Tri-Thien-Hue	21,000	31,500
MR 5	16,000	9,000
B-3 Front	30,000	14,000
COSVN	38,000	26,000
Southern Laos/MR 559	14,000	11,000

Table 2
**Number of Personnel Entering the Pipeline
Since 1 January 1973**

	Total¹	Special-Purpose²
1-7 Jan	4,700	400
8-14	3,700	350
15-21	6,100	500
22-28	4,000	150
29-4 Feb	6,300	400
5-11	3,100	250
12-18	2,000	850
19-25	500	500
26-4 Mar	750	750
5-11	1,300	300
12-18	550	550
19-25	650	650
26-1 Apr	300	300
2-8	275	275
9-15	500	500
16-22	150	150
23-29	1,000	0
30-6 May	1,775	275
7-13	1,100	100
14-21	2,350	50

1. Including gap-filled groups, except Groups 7001 through 7009. Assuming that these groups departed between 1 January and 10 March, some 4,500 combat troops would be spread over the departures estimated for those weeks.

2. Including those groups which were initially detected without a specific strength but which have been assigned an average strength of 35.

[]

during the past week entering the pipeline at Vinh, traveling toward MR Tri-Thien-Hue. Moreover, a second special-purpose group with three personnel was noted for the first time in the southern portion of the Laotian Panhandle. The latter group, which probably departed from North Vietnam in early or mid-April, is destined for the COSVN area.

Unit Redeployments in South Vietnam

15. Recent COMINT suggests that a regiment of the 320B NVA Infantry Division may be withdrawing from South Vietnam's Quang Tri Province to North Vietnam. On 15 May 1973, Binh Tram 18 (in the Vinh area) directed associates to send personnel to southern Quang Binh Province to coordinate the transportation of a 52nd Regiment to an undisclosed location. A regiment of the 320B Division has been operating in Quang Tri Province since May 1972 and was last identified in South Vietnam in late March 1973.

16. If the 52nd Regiment has moved back to North Vietnam, this could represent a continuation of routine procedures under way in the 320B Division since before the cease-fire. [] since late December 1972 has indicated that the division's regiments have been rotating between southern Quang Binh Province and northern Quang Tri Province for the purposes of resting and refitting.

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17. The 102nd Regiment of the 308th NVA Division also was mentioned as being located near Vinh. This suggests that the regiment did not deploy northward to the Hanoi area with the division headquarters after withdrawal of the headquarters from South Vietnam in January 1973. The division headquarters, which was transiting the Vinh area as late as mid-March, returned to its traditional garrison area near Hanoi along with its subordinate 36th Regiment by 3 April. The current location of the division's third regiment -- the 88th -- is unknown, and the possibility that it too is still in the North Vietnamese Panhandle cannot be dismissed.

Communist and South Vietnamese Regular Combat Forces in South Vietnam

South Vietnam

Regular Combat Forces

VC/NVA¹

RVNAF²

163,000

287,000

VC/NVA

RVNAF

80,000

85,000

325th

VNMC

324B

Airborne

320B

1st

312th³

2nd

304th

3rd

711th

Regional

2nd

Forces

MR 2

VC/NVA

RVNAF

29,000

57,000

320th

23rd

10th

22nd

3rd

Regional

Forces

MR 3

VC/NVA

RVNAF

27,000

67,000

429th Sapper
Command

25th

9th

18th

7th

5th

Regional

Forces

MR 4

VC/NVA

RVNAF

27,000

78,000

5th

21st

1st

9th

7th

44th Special
Tactical Zone

Regional Forces

An Giang

Sa Dec

Phong Dinh

Chuong Thien

Ba Xuyen

Bac Lieu

An Xuyen

Vinh Binh

Kien Hoa

Vinh Long

Go Cong

Gia Dinh

Phuoc Tuy

Bien Hoa

Long Khanh

Long An

Nghia

Hau

Dinh Tuong

Kien Tuong

Kien Phong

Chau Doc

An Giang

Sa Dec

Phong Dinh

Chuong Thien

Ba Xuyen

Bac Lieu

An Xuyen

Vinh Binh

Kien Hoa

Vinh Long

Go Cong

Gia Dinh

Phuoc Tuy

Bien Hoa

Long Khanh

Long An

Nghia

Hau

Dinh Tuong

Kien Tuong

Kien Phong

Chau Doc

An Giang

Sa Dec

Phong Dinh

Chuong Thien

Ba Xuyen

Bac Lieu

An Xuyen

Vinh Binh

Kien Hoa

Vinh Long

Go Cong

Gia Dinh

Phuoc Tuy

Bien Hoa

Long Khanh

Long An

Nghia

Hau

Dinh Tuong

Kien Tuong

Kien Phong

Chau Doc

An Giang

Sa Dec

Phong Dinh

Chuong Thien

Ba Xuyen

Bac Lieu

An Xuyen

Vinh Binh

Kien Hoa

Vinh Long

Go Cong

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Sa Dec

Phong Dinh

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Phuoc Tuy

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Long Khanh

Long An

Nghia

Hau

Dinh Tuong

Kien Tuong

Kien Phong

Chau Doc

An Giang

Sa Dec

Phong Dinh

Chuong Thien

Ba Xuyen

Bac Lieu

An Xuyen

Vinh Binh

Kien Hoa

Vinh Long

Go Cong

Gia Dinh

Phuoc Tuy

Bien Hoa

Long Khanh

Long An

Nghia

Hau

Dinh Tuong

Kien Tuong

Kien Phong

Chau Doc

An Giang

Sa Dec

Phong Dinh

Chuong Thien

Ba Xuyen

Bac Lieu

An Xuyen

Vinh Binh

Kien Hoa

Vinh Long

Go Cong

Gia Dinh

Phuoc Tuy

Bien Hoa

Long Khanh

Long An

Nghia

Hau

Dinh Tuong

Kien Tuong

Kien Phong

Chau Doc

An Giang

Sa Dec

Phong Dinh

Chuong Thien

Ba Xuyen

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Long Khanh

Long An

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Hau

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Chau Doc

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Sa Dec

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